

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application.

A restriction requirement has been imposed among the following inventions: Group I (claims 1-11) and Group II (claims 12-24).

Applicant's Response

Applicant hereby elects Group I, with traverse, for initial examination in this application, corresponding to claims 1-11.

Applicant submits that it is well established that:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, **even though it includes claims to independent and distinct inventions.** M.P.E.P. § 803

(emphasis added).

A proper search for art related to the elected Group would necessarily include the classes and subclasses relevant to a search for the non-elected Group. For example, claim 1 of Group I recites a plurality of vendor computers programmed to provide a website, a service provider computer at which a user has established a primary account and that permits the user to establish a sub-account, wherein purchases may be made using the sub-account. Claim 12 of Group II recites each vendor having a website, providing the user of a primary account an interface to a service provider computer wherein the user may establish a sub-account that may be used to make purchases. Thus, examination of all of the claims would not present a "serious burden" on the Examiner because a search of

the claims of Group I inherently includes a search of the claims of Group II. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the present restriction requirement be withdrawing.

An early and favorable action is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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